

****PRESS RELEASE****



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RESIDENTS ARE URGED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND DUE TO NUMEROUS DETECTIONS OF WEST NILE VIRUS AND ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS IN WESTERN FRESNO COUNTY

FIREBAUGH, CALIFORNIA - The Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District is asking residents to take precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites and prevent mosquito production after multiple mosquito samples this season have tested positive for West Nile virus (105 samples) and St. Louis encephalitis virus (12 samples). A large number of the positive samples were obtained within the City of Firebaugh with additional detections throughout the region (visit <http://fresnowestmosquito.com/mosquito-activity/> for a complete map). Ultra low volume applications of public health pesticides have been made over the past couple weeks to reduce the numbers of adult mosquitoes but residents are still asked to take extra precautions to protect themselves during this period of high virus activity.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes and exposed to mosquito-borne viruses including SLEV or WNV, residents are urged to take the following precautions:

- Drain all sources of standing water around your home. Remove unnecessary objects from around your home that can potentially hold water.
- Report observed sources of standing water (i.e. unmaintained swimming pools) and mosquito activity to the Fresno Westside Mosquito Abatement District (559) 659-2437 or at www.fresnowestmosquito.com.
- Irrigation water on farms and other lands should not be allowed to stand for more than three days.
- Report dead birds to 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or www.westnile.gov.
- Repair window and door screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering buildings.
- Wear long sleeves and pants if outdoors when mosquitoes are present.
- Use a repellent containing DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, picaridin or IR3535, as recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Always read and follow the repellent label instructions.

- Stock mosquitofish in domestic water features, such as backyard ponds and horse troughs. The District will place mosquitofish, at no cost, in backyard mosquito breeding sources.

For more information on St Louis encephalitis virus:

California Department of Public Health:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/StLouisEncephalitisFactSheet.pdf>

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/sle/>

For more information on West Nile virus:

California Department of Public Health

<http://westnile.ca.gov/>

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/index.html>